

VOICE OF FREEDOM.

VOL. V.

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AND
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Editors.

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POETRY.

Original.
THE PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Harsh sounds fall ever on my ear,
Rude jest, and oath profane—
War lays an army on its bier,
Then speeds to slay again.

Men herd where nightly revels are,
With maddened brain and blood;
To sound the depths of sin, and war
The workmanship of God.

In vain the thrilling cry for bread,
Rings through the lordly hall—
The Mother by her famished dead,
Weaves for herself the pall!

Still sounds the lash and clanks the chain,
Wild shrieks grow wilder still;
Tears flow and blood, like summer rain,
On sunny plain and hill.

If you bright stars are eyes, to view
Earth's scenes of sin, away,
Well may they draw their veil of blue,
When dawns the bloody day.

But hark! a low and holy hymn
Falls sweetly on my ear—
I hear the bright-eyed Cherubim
Give unto God this Year!

W. G. B.

Jan. 1844.

For the Voice of Freedom.

PAY THE PRINTER.

Now the winds are loud and chill
I have scarce a splinter,
At the door my stove to fill,
In the depth of winter;
Would you pay with wood your bill,
Call and pay the Printer.

I have toiled, O long and lone
By the waiting taper,
Long and lone, have watched the tone
Of the latest paper,
To snatch a little for my own
From every exchange paper.

Weekly last, my little sheet
Made you sad or merry,
Aching brain and freezing feet
All are ready, "werry;"
Not a single "pie" to eat,
For self or Kate or Jerry.

As wind the winds around the trees
Scarcely a green leaf leaving,
As leaves the bosom of the seas
The poor child to be heaving,
As kiss the flowers the cunning bees
Of all their sweets bereaving.

So have ye strewn the leaves of mine
Their honey-drops to gather,
And left me like a tree to pine
Through all this winter-weather—
Wish ye my golden toad and shine?
Give it a wing to soar and flatter.

U. O. T.

For the Voice of Freedom.

THE STUDENT'S STAR.

What is it that guides our course in summer's heat,
And cheers us 'mid bleak winter's damps and cold;
That lights the path to some beloved retreat,
Where dwell pure joys oft felt but never told?

It is the Student's star.

When Spring on sweetest breath of blushing flowers,
Strains gently forth to bask in morning air,
Or joyous Autumn feasts on golden hours,
Where is the light that makes those scenes so fair?

'Tis from the Student's star.

When youth, with lingering gaze and thoughtful brow,
Bends o'er his lamp while hours unheeded roll,
Say, what is it that lures him onward now,
Is love of gold the spell that charms his soul?

No; 'tis the Student's star.

When sorrows thicken as the shades of night,
And dangers dread surround in bold array,
What is the gleam, whose lone and flickering light
Guides to a brighter and a happier day?

It is the Student's star.

What is the Student's high and sainted star,
That lures him with its pure resplendent light?
Fame, honor, glory, on the fields of war?
No, no; 'tis Knowledge—Love of Truth & Right—
That is the Student's star.

S. D. W.

Jan. 1844.

MISCELLANY.

UNUSUAL CONSIGNMENT.—We understand that one of the bills of lading of the barque Natchez, of Portland, which arrived at this port from New Orleans, yesterday, was "one negro slave, Martin, to S. L. Shaw." We do not know that this may not be the simplest way of emancipating a negro, but the phrase sounds strangely in this latitude.—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

The facts of the case are these: A merchant of Boston sent orders to his agent to obtain something, if possible, from the effects of a man in Louisiana, who owed him \$300. The agent replied, that in obeying his orders he had been so lucky as to secure Martin, a likely negro boy of nine years old; that he had put him in prison, and awaited further orders, whether to dispose of him at auction or private sale. The New England merchant felt a little queer about this peculiar species of property. He was not an anti-slavery man, but the buying

and selling of children affected him unpleasantly. He accordingly offered to give the boy to Ellis Gray Loring. Glad to save the little stranger from a life of bondage, our friend accepted the offer.—He caused the human chattel to be brought from Louisiana, at the expense of \$50, has taken him under his own protection, and given him the name of Martin Loring. May a blessing rest upon the deed. *A. S. Standard.*

From 'The Present' for December.

THE MISSIONARY OF PRISONS.

Still prayers are strong, and God is good;
Man is not made for endless ill;
Dear spirit! my soul's tormented mood
Has yet a hope thou canst not kill.

Sterling.

I have recently had an interview with Dorothea L. Dix, the American Mrs. Fry, the God-appointed missionary to our prisons and almshouses. This short interview has so refreshed my soul, that I am moved to impart some of its influence to you and your readers. Perhaps you need such encouragements less than I do. For myself, I must confess, that even while I speak words of hope and progress to others, my own spirit is, at times, almost crushed under the mass of misery and wrong forced upon my observation. When in these desponding moods, I often think of Carlini, the comedian, whose inexhaustible stock of fun enabled all classes of people to forget their sorrows and anxieties, under his merry influence. While his popularity was at its height, a stranger applied to a physician in the city resorting with echoes of Carlini's mirth, to know what could be done to cure the intense depression of his spirit. "Go and hear Carlini," replied the doctor; "he will chase away your gloom in spite of yourself." "Alas!" rejoined the patient, "I am Carlini."

Is it not so sometimes with all prophets of the Future, who dwell amid the social malaria of cities? Is not the bravest spirit sometimes compelled to cry out in agony, *Can this frightful disorder ever be brought into harmony?* Yet even from the dismal depths of such states, I will utter the prophecy of faith and hope; for a Divine voice speaks through the clouds, assuring me that my despairing feelings are wrong, and my cheerful utterance is right.

Yet thankful am I for every visible proof that faith in the power of Love is slowly gaining ascendancy over habitual reliance on the law of Force. Miss Dix's experience is full of this blessed encouragement. Those who know her, as I have done, are aware that her life has been one continued exertion and self-sacrifice for the good of others. To those who do not know her, she would, in unaffected humility, shrink from having it told.

It is little more than two years since her attention was arrested by the condition of prisoners, particularly of those who were insane. Years of unremitting industry as a teacher, and a legacy from a deceased relative, had given her a competence sufficient for her simple mode of life. She might have rested, after her long-continued toil, and carried with her, into honored retirement, the consciousness of innumerable acts of kindness bestowed and duties faithfully performed. But I felt, says she, that I had no right to live for myself alone; that there was much work to be done in the world, and there must be something for me to do. While I eagerly asked of myself, what is my appointed mission? I was led into the prison-houses of the land, and soon saw that my work was there.

And bravely is she performing her heavenly mission! Traveling alone in cold and storm; expending her income, her energies, and her health; witnessing scenes of degradation and filth, exceedingly revolting to the fastidious delicacy of her character, and continually brought into contact with mental and physical suffering, agonizing to her compassionate heart.

Through her benevolent influence on select-men, county commissioners, and State legislators, extensive and beneficent changes have already taken place in Massachusetts, though much remains to be done. She has recently returned from a similar tour of duty in Canada, and is now traveling through New York. In some respects, she thinks the prisons in this State are in better condition than those of Massachusetts; particularly as the insane are rarely found within their walls. But she says, if the civilized world affords a spectacle more painful than the institutions provided in Albany for the poor and vicious, she trusts it will never be her lot to witness it.

I inquired whether the amount of good accomplished had, so far, equaled her expectations. She said it had; and that her faith in the power of kindness, over the insane and vicious, had been more than confirmed. Among the hundreds of crazy people with whom her sacred mission has brought her into companionship, she has not found one individual, however fierce and turbulent that could not be calmed by Scripture and prayer, uttered in low and gentle tones. The power of the religious sentiment over these shattered souls seems perfectly miraculous.—The worship of a quiet, loving heart affects them like a voice from heaven.—Tearing and rending, yelling and stamping, singing and groaning, subside into silence, and they fall on their knees, or gaze upward with clasped hands, as if they saw through the opening darkness a golden gleam from their Father's throne of love.

On one occasion this missionary of mercy was earnestly cautioned not to approach a raving maniac. He yelled frightfully, day and night, rent his garment, plucked out his hair, and was so violent that it was supposed he would murder any one that ventured within his reach. Miss Dix seated herself at a little distance, and without appearing to notice him, began to read, with serene countenance and gentle voice, certain passages of Scripture filled with the spirit of tenderness. His shouts gradually subsided, until at last he became perfectly still. When she paused, he said meekly, "Read me some more; it does me good." And when after a prolonged season of worship, she said, "I must go away now," he eagerly replied, "No, you cannot go, God sent you to me; and you must not go." By kind words, and a promise to come again, she finally obtained permission to depart. "Give me your hand," said he. She gave it, and smiled upon him. The wild expression of his haggard countenance softened to tenderness, as he said, "You treat me right. God sent you."

On another occasion she had been leading some twenty or thirty maniacs into worship, and seeing them all quiet as lambs gathered into the Shepherd's fold, she prepared to go forth to other duties.—In leaving the room, she passed an insane young man, with whom she had several interviews. He stood with hands clasped, and a countenance of the deepest reverence. With a friendly smile, she said, "Henry, are you well to-day?" "Hush! hush!" replied he sinking his voice to a whisper, and gazing earnestly on the space around her. "Hush!—there are angels with you! They have given you their voice!"

But let not the formalist suppose that he can work such miracles as these, in the professed name of Jesus. Vain is the Scripture or the prayer, repeated by rote. There must be the meek utterance of a heart overflowing with love; for to such only do the angels "lend their voice."
L. M. CHILD.

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Voice of Freedom.

PRINCIPLES OF PEACE.—No. 4.

It was proposed as the theme of this number to speak of the gospel, as opposed to international war. And yet how shall I begin to illustrate a fact so obvious?—Its very title is the Gospel of peace. The coming of Christ was anticipated in prophecy under the appellation—"Prince of peace." Peace was prominent in the song of the angelic choir which announced his birth. As he entered his public ministry, meekness and a spirit of peace were among his aphorisms and benedictions. Forgiveness, the true ground of peace, he made the condition of acceptance and forgiveness with God, and the test spirit of prayer in all his disciples. He taught peace in all his doctrines, and the brotherhood of man in all his expositions of scripture. Thus—"All things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets." And he exemplified it in his life; and in his death. Peace was the legacy he bequeathed to his disciples in his departing hour. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you." And he moreover made love, the true bond of peace, the distinctive mark or badge of his followers, saying, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples." Clad in this liveliest, inheriting this bequest, full of faith in these promises, the primitive Christians went forth for about three centuries, as lambs in the midst of wolves, discarding all connection with war as utterly inconsistent with their high calling and profession. And the Savior at the same time verified his promise to them—"He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." While at the same time he gave to them a mouth, and wisdom which all their adversaries were not able to gainsay or resist.

And must I here, in performance of my promise, blot the pleasant, the heavenly view, by introducing in contrast, a few maxims from the commonly received law of nations? Read then Vattel, Book 1, Chap. 14 §180, "Valor is the firmest support of the State. Chap. 15, §185 & 191, "The glory of a nation depends entirely on its powers. He who attacks its glory does it an injury, and it has a right to demand, even by force of arms, a just recompense." Or shall I glance with painful eye, at the subsequent history of the Church, taking the place of political paganism; and placing its reliance on the State? while for twelve and a half long centuries very ill, either of piety or

morality was found in the church, among either clergy or laity. Or shall we trace the labored efforts of the church, of still later days, to compound and refine incongruous and incoherent materials, such as paganism, civil government, and christianity with all their conflicting principles; a code of honor, like the present law of nations? We see in all this not the success but the abuse of the gospel.—Quite another view of gospel days was taken by the enraptured prophet when he sang "It shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountains of the Lord's House shall be established in the tops of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills and all nations shall flow unto it. Out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.—And He shall judge among the nations and rebuke many people and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war any more."—And why may not the church proceed at once to the realization of such a course? There is efficiency in the gospel, yet the church will never recover its purity and strength until it shall hold forth a steady, decided, and uncompromising example and protest against war. This may, as I propose to show in my next, be done in perfect accordance with our civil duties. And until it is done, the "mountain of the Lord's house" will never be exalted to its appointed eminence. Until then, the nations will not flow unto it. Until then the Law going forth out of Zion shall not supersede the art and implements of war. Let us then add with Isaiah, "O house of Israel, come ye and let us walk in the light of the Lord." B.

Twenty-Eighth Congress.

From the Emancipator & Free American.

Speech of Mr. ADAMS, on the Reference of the Resolves of the Legislature of Massachusetts, in favor of amending the Federal Constitution.—*Concluded.*

Friday, December 22, 1843.

But gentlemen have contended that this is unconstitutional. On this point I would ask of my friend from S. Carolina near me, (Mr. HOLMES,) whether he recollects a decision of Judge William Johnson in the case of a certain citizen of Rhode Island, who was imprisoned, bound, and I know not but scourged, in the State of South Carolina, for the crime of—having a dark complexion.

Mr. HOLMES said, I remember that case, and I never ceased to honor the name of William Johnson; but on a subsequent occasion J. M. Berrien, then Attorney General of the United States, but now a representative in the Senate, gave it as his opinion that the law was in conformity with the Constitution, and the Government sanctioned that opinion.—That law for imprisoning persons of color who came into the State of South Carolina, by the blessing of God, is still in existence, as the law of the land, and will be put in force against any who may enter the State for incendiary purposes.

Mr. ADAMS. Yes; and so it appears, after a decision by a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States—himself, too, a native of South Carolina, that a law was so utterly unconstitutional that it would not bear an argument, six or seven years after an Attorney General of the United States gives an opinion that it is constitutional, and *ergo* the law is valid! Thus it stands at this hour. Sir, is the opinion of an Attorney General of the U. S., the law of this land? I have always understood that the official opinion of a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, unappealed from, is the law of the land; and I believe, as much as I believe the sun will rise to-morrow, that the decision of Judge Johnson, in reference to that law of South Carolina, is at this day the law of this land, and that this State law is so unconstitutional that it will not bear an argument.

But I will inquire of my friend from South Carolina whether he recollects another instance? The same Judge, native of South Carolina, when pronouncing his opinion on that law, alluded to the opinion expressed by my honorable friend himself, that if the enforcement of that law would produce a dissolution of the Union, South Carolina ought to adhere to it. Was it so?

Mr. HOLMES said he perfectly remembered having said, and he would add that he never had seen reason to change the opinion, that if that law of South Carolina was to be repealed, and the South must submit to an influx of that sort of persons which that law kept out, he had thought then, and he thought now, and would say it with all the solemnity expressed by the gentleman from Massachusetts in the presence of his Maker, that the quicker the Union was dissolved peaceably, and Southern interests, Southern rights, and Southern property could be respected and maintained the better.—He remembered it well, and never had seen reason to regret having made that declaration. Mr. ADAMS resumed.

I am satisfied, Sir. The gentleman admits that he did put in issue the continued existence of this Union and the law of South Carolina. I will not ask the gentleman how he voted in the case of the petition I presented from persons holding the very reverse of his opinions, but agreeing with him in substantially the same issue, and asking for a peaceable dissolution of the Union.

Mr. HOLMES spoke in reply, but the Reporter could not hear a word of what he said.

Mr. ADAMS. How the gentleman voted he has not told us, and I did not hold it very material; but in both cases the issue made was substantially and in principle the same: The Haverhill petitioners on one side and the gentleman on the other, join issue between this law and the continuance of the Union.

There has been another effect—not by a South Carolina Judge, but by negotiation with a foreign Power to save from the same species of oppression colored mariners, such as the cooks and stewards of merchant vessels. And here let me say that the enormous and terrifying danger, a danger so terrible to the military and chivalrous gentleman, [a laugh,] that rather than risk it, the Union itself is to be dissolved, is this, that South Carolina will not be able to sustain her power over her slaves because a free colored cook or steward should remain on board a vessel at Charleston for a few days! It cannot be endured. It is too terrible; you must nab the poor mortal, a citizen most likely of my own State, or of Rhode Island, or the subject of some foreign Power, to whom we are bound by treaty that her subject shall be treated by us with kindness and hospitality. In the case of this to which I allude the Government of the United States and the Government of South Carolina had both to deal with a great foreign Power on that question.

Not five years ago, I believe, there occurred another case at Charleston, when a complaint was made by the British Consul, and something very like a threat was uttered, that if the men seized were not released it might lead to a quarrel between the United States and Great Britain; and in the end it came to this; that another highly distinguished Attorney General of the United States from South Carolina, a gentleman for whose memory I cherish, as we all must, the most sincere respect, wrote to the British Consul that he had done all he could to get the law repealed, even going so far as to state that the consequence of enforcing its provisions might be nothing short of war with Great Britain, but he was sorry to say that his efforts had been all in vain; but that, even should war ensue, the State was resolved to adhere to the ground she had taken.—Here is an effectual confirmation of what the gentleman near me has given as his own opinion: in fact the State has declared, through these two distinguished gentlemen, my friend here (Mr. HOLMES) and the late Attorney General, (Mr. LEGARE,) that even though a dissolution of the Union and a war with England must be the alternative, she would undergo both rather than give up her unconstitutional act.

I have related these circumstances to this House: I hope they will go to the country: I trust this debate may be so reported, that every man and every woman, aye, and every child that can read, may read and reflect upon it. Any gentleman can verify the truth of the statements I have made by looking at the public documents containing the opinion of the South Carolina Judge; and he will there find another part of the story, which I have not mentioned, as fully verified as the gentleman (Mr. HOLMES) admits the part I stated in relation to him to have been true. I will not now enter with that gentleman on a discussion of a question whether the official opinions of a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States from the Bench, or the opinions of a ministerial law officer of the executive Government, are to be the tests and standards of constitutional law. I say, however, that the people of the State of Massachusetts, and the people of all the free States of this Union, have a right to consider the decision of the Judge as the law of the land, and as the true and correct view of the constitution in the case. The gentleman from South Carolina does not. He is satisfied, quite satisfied, if he can get the opinion of an Attorney General. The thing, then, at last comes to this: one man considers this to be the doctrine of the Constitution, another thinks just the contrary: one man holds a law constitutional, another declares it unconstitutional; and so we come to the doctrine, once advanced so characteristically by Gen. JACKSON, that every man is for the Constitution as he understands it.

The gentleman from South Carolina is for the Constitution as he understands it! [A laugh.] A gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FRENCH) intimated to the House last evening a few constitutional opinions as he understands the Constitution. I have some constitutional opinions too, and so have the Legislature of Massachusetts.—The gentleman from Kentucky, as I understood him, set his face against the resolves passed by the Legislature of my State, which I had the honor to present, as wholly unconstitutional.

Mr. FRENCH made a reply, which the Reporter is almost afraid to state, lest he fall into a new blunder; but as he understood him, Mr. F. said that he had not

said a word about the resolutions of Massachusetts, but had briefly presented his views touching the unconstitutionality of these abolition petitions. He considered that to grant the prayer of these petitions, would be a violation of the Constitution, and therefore they ought not to be received.

Mr. ADAMS. I am happy to hear he did not apply his remarks to these resolves, but, as I understand him, to the whole of the petitions, which ask for the same thing sought by those resolves.—Now, to me, it appears that if it is unconstitutional in petitioners to ask for certain things, it must be equally unconstitutional in the Legislature of Massachusetts to propose those same things. A thing that is unconstitutional in itself, is unconstitutional let who will ask or propose it.

Mr. FRENCH, with Mr. ADAMS's assent, again interposed and explained, that in his remarks his main object had been to show that Congress had no power to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, and, therefore, was not constitutionally bound to receive petitions asking that they would do so.

Mr. ADAMS. The explanation of the gentleman leaves him still in what Judge Chase once called "*a non sequitur*." It does not follow, as I apprehend, that this House is at liberty to refuse a petition because it asks Congress to do what Congress has not power to do. Suppose, as is the case in many of these petitions, the petitioners put their prayer in the form of a petition for the amendment of the Constitution, so that what they wish may be constitutionally done, (and such is the prayer of the Massachusetts resolves) it can be no objection to the reception of such a petition that the object sought to be obtained is not now constitutional; for the very thing prayed for is an alteration of the Constitution, and the Constitution itself provides that such propositions for its amendment may be made. Congress has always power to propose amendments to the Constitution; this is secured to it by the Constitution itself; and, therefore, it cannot be unconstitutional to pray for it. Every body has a right so to pray; it is one of the liberties of an American freeman. And I say further, that if any description, or class of petitions deserves more especial respect from this House than others, it is prayers for the amendment of the Constitution.—Why, sir, what would become of this House if every one of its members was precluded from the right of offering resolutions for an amendment of the Constitution? Yet I do not see but that follows from the gentleman's doctrine; for if the House has no power to receive propositions to amend the Constitution, it might, it seems to me, prohibit every one of its members from offering resolutions for that subject.

Mr. FRENCH once more explained, in substance that he would not undertake to determine whether Congress might or might not receive petitions for the amendment of the Constitution.

Mr. ADAMS. I now understand the gentleman as expressly disclaiming what I yesterday understood him as distinctly affirming. I hope now that the gentleman will not vote against receiving any petitions the prayer of which is for an amendment of the Constitution, on the ground that the petition is a violation of the Constitution.

Sir, in conclusion, I have already trespassing long on the patience of the House, and I will at present say no more; unless it be to say, that, although I am not in the habit of making broad and unqualified professions of attachment to the Union, I am nevertheless devoted to the Union & devoted to the Constitution. My whole life hitherto has been devoted to the support of both, and all my remaining days upon earth, which in the course of nature, can be but few, shall be in the same manner dedicated, if God gives me the power, to support and sustain both the Union and the Constitution. But I do not, therefore, pledge myself not to offer resolutions of my own, nor do I pledge myself not to present the resolves of the Legislature of Massachusetts, to amend the Constitution. That is a right we cannot resign; it is within the power of the House; but it is not within the power of this House to refuse to receive a petition to amend the Constitution in any of its parts.

Mr. HOLMES asked leave to reply.—The request, which could be granted only by consent or a suspension of the rules, was objected to by several members, and some momentary confusion ensued.

Mr. HUDSON moved that Mr. HOLMES have leave to proceed.

The Chair inquired whether the gentleman meant to move that the rules be suspended for that purpose?

Mr. HOLMES objected to such a motion, and said he only wished to—

He was called to order.

Mr. CAMPBELL, asked that his friend and colleague might be allowed to reply only to such remarks as had had a personal reference, and not to make a general reply or speech.

Mr. HOLMES still refused. He only wanted to say that Orlando and his sword—

He was again called to order.

The motion that Mr. HOLMES have leave to proceed was not persisted in, that gentleman not desiring, he said, to make a speech.

Mr. BRADY said that as he regarded these resolutions as a solicitation on the